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(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 1950

✓	ROGERS	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOFFE	
✓	ANDERSON	
	STANTON	
	FULLER	
✓	MATTSON	
✓	CONDON	
✓	SKINNER	
✓	EVANS	
	CHAPMAN	
	FINCH	
	DAY	
✓	WITTAMS	
✓	[illegible]	
	[illegible]	
	WIGGINS	
	MACCLAIN	

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the May 1950 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Temperatures and precipitation below average. Cold winds. Maximum 73°, minimum 18°. Considerable snow still remaining.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers to Bozeman conference with Montana Power Co. & to Rotary, to Sun Valley Nat'l Ski Ass'n meeting, & trips to Bozeman library. Johnston & Mattson to West Yellowstone conference re. proposed airport. Mammoth Govt. mess opened. Exams for Library Assistant & Engineering Aid.	1
	Independence Savings Bonds Drive. Rudolf Grimm & Roy Armstrong alternate members Safety Committee. Four children of park employees graduated from high schools. Ten graduated from Mammoth 8th grade. School picnic. Absaroka Conservation Comm. meeting; Congressman D'Ewart presided; J. W. Penfold represented Izaak Walton League. Fishing season opened; streams high; Lake frozen over.	2
INSPECTIONS:	Wm. Bartlett, Glacier, in re. payrolling machine. Wm. Dunn moved in to Lake fisheries station. Albert Stocker, Region Two, in re. Custer museum.	2
	Richard Ketcham & Ralph Martens, Region Two, in on assignment. C. Paul Marshall, Food & Drug Adm., W. F. Carbine, Inland Fisheries, in. Geo. Miller, family, Glacier, in on vacation. Willard F. Lindauer, Region Two, in.	3
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	Training films purchased. Ranger fire school. Films shown. Cash register training. Motor vehicle safety instructions. Newsletter.	3
PUBLICITY:	Y.P.Co. folders received.	3
	Road openings press release. Ross Madden photos in Colliers. Article on Hayneses & photos in Popular Mechanics. Notice 350,000 broadsides shipped. 53,175 broadsides on hand.	4

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PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Lake sewer plans submitted, Fishing Bridge topography & road plotting, O.F. Lodge area water & sewer plans. Ketcham & Martens from Region to assist improvement projects.	4
MAINTENANCE:	Weather unfavorable. Spring breakup. Snow-plowing extremely difficult; snow icy. Behind schedule in spite extra hours; breakdowns. Road openings listed. Road, bridge, walk repairs.	4
NEW CONSTRUCTION:	Bids let section South Approach Road.	5
CONCESSIONERS:	Mammoth swimming pool being razed.	5
	O.F. swimming pool not expected open; ordered demolished. Opening dates of accommodations. W. M. Nichols visited; Huntley Child offices moved to Mammoth; John Nichols in. Nurses to Old Faithful & Fishing Bridge. Hamilton rates approved. Mr. & Mrs. Hamilton arrived.	6
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE:	Sunday School terminated for season. Church services. Padded kneeling prayer benches for Chapel completed but not installed.	6
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Condon presented movies & talk to Absaroka Conservation group. Ford Co. film shown four groups. Talks by Condon to three other groups.	7
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Mammoth & Old Faithful museums opened. Cut flower exhibit equipment repainted. Rock specimens sent Kalamazoo Museum.	7
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Bittern seen.	7
	Observations of Canadian geese, elk calves, bears, bison, swans, etc. Snow hard enough to permit animals walk on top. Sandhill cranes observed. Several geysers inactive. Walk at Norris destroyed by thermal activity. Info. supplied Mr. Pengelly, Idaho Game Dept. on elk. Collecting permits issued.	8
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Bound books returned. Work on book stocks and distribution.	9
INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	24,051 people in 8,396 cars as compared to 34,607 in 10,929 cars last May, 30.5% decrease, due severe weather & later openings.	9

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VISITORS:	J. W. Penfold & Cong. Wesley A. D'Ewart in.	9
RANGER SERVICE:	Ranger moves, trails, manual revisions re. cash registers at gates, pasture fence, fish planting, patrols, etc.	9
WILDLIFE AND FISH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: FISH:	Unfavorable fishing conditions; Lake frozen. Restriction Madison-Firehole fishing. Lake Hatchery occupied. Stream research station. Fish plantings.	10
BEARS:	Many seen. 1 property damage. Dead bear.	10
BISON:	Numerous some areas. Important attraction.	10
ELK:	Remained on winter range.	10
RODENT CONTROL:	Some ground squirrels & marmots disposed of.	11
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Fire school and preparation therefor. Most fire control aids selected.	11
BLISTER RUST CONTROL:	Equipment preparations.	11
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Instruction at fire school. Building Fire Equipment Report. Extinguishers refilled, hose tested, connections cleaned, plans for fire engine crew training, etc.	11
TRAILS:	Four men on trail work. Equipment purchased.	12
ACCIDENTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY:	Seven motor vehicle accidents. Two personal injuries to employees, one very serious.	12
BIRTHS:	Son born to Mr. & Mrs. William Armstrong.	12
PERSONNEL:	George Q. Wheeler eod seasonal Storekeeper. Edwin J. Quinn eod permanent Property Clerk GS-4 vice Robert Carr, promoted to Fiscal Accounting Clerk, vice Catharine Gillum, transferred to Reclamation Service, California. Betty Jane Lauer, seasonal Clerk-Typist GS-3. Homer I Brent terminated as Park Ranger due failure pass exam; eod seasonal ranger. Lawrence Murray severe injury expected incapacitate from work several months. Seasonal appointments Genevieve McCabe, Mary Jo McCarthy, Elizabeth McGinnis, Clerk-Stenos, & Wilbur Thomas seasonal Storekeeper.	12
MISCELLANEOUS:	Federal Employees Union meeting.	13

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYOMING

Office of the Superintendent

June 7, 1950

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for May 1950

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of May 1950.

Weather Conditions. Below average temperatures and precipitation prevailed at Mammoth for the month as compared to the same month last year. Precipitation totaled 1.32" as compared to last year's 1.36". Unusually cold winds occurred during most of the month when normally fair to normal weather exists. The maximum temperature of 73° occurred on the 22nd and 27 th with a minimum of 18° on the 5th. Considerable snow still remains on the main plateau area and higher peaks.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers went to Bozeman on May 2 to confer with Montana Power Company officials with regard to bringing power in to Mammoth; also attended Rotary. On May 4 he went to Sun Valley, Idaho, to represent the National Park Service at the National Ski Association meeting, returning to the park on the 7th. Additional trips were made to Bozeman on May 18 and 25 to visit the library and to obtain data in connection with his project covering the legislative history of the parks.

Assistant Superintendent Johnston and Landscape Architect Mattson attended a conference with CAA and Western Airlines officials in West Yellowstone on May 4 in connection with the proposed new West Yellowstone airport.

The Government mess at Mammoth was reopened May 1, having been closed since December 17, 1949. For some several weeks prior to the opening of the mess Government employees were permitted to eat at the Yellowstone Park Company mess at Mammoth after it was opened for the summer.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Library Assistant on May 11 with one contestant and an examination for Engineering Aid on May 26 with one contestant.

The 1950 Independence Savings Bond Drive got underway on May 15 and will be continued to July 4. Administrative Assistant Joffe, Yellowstone Park Chairman, U. S. Savings Bonds Division, is handling the drive in the park. The Wyoming Liberty Bell which is being displayed throughout the state of Wyoming during the drive is expected to be in the Yellowstone on June 9 and 10.

Rudolf L. Grimm and Roy L. Armstrong were appointed alternate members of the Yellowstone Park Safety Committee on May 22. Due to the injury sustained by Lawrence Murray, Electrician Foreman, a member of the Committee, who is expected to be incapacitated most of the summer, it became necessary to appoint these two alternate members of the Committee.

The children of two Yellowstone Park permanent employees, Mary Dewing and Peggy Hochstrasser, graduated from the Gardiner High School on May 25 as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Roy Hjelm, son of a permanent painter with the Yellowstone Park Company at Mammoth, graduated from the Livingston High School and Billy Arnold, son of the permanent ranger at East Entrance, graduated from the Cody High School.

The Mammoth School Eighth Grade graduation exercises were held in the Chapel on May 26 with Rev. E. A. Syms, Episcopalian Minister from Livingston as speaker. This was the largest class to graduate from the Mammoth Grade School in its history with ten pupils getting their diplomas. They were Rosemary Proper, Jerry Abbie, James Armstrong, Richard Fillmore, Jerome Johnston, George Mattson, Bruce McMullin, David Stevens, Orvil Stewart and Ronald Way. The grade school held its annual picnic at Eagle Creek outside the park on May 27.

The regular spring meeting of the Absaroka Conservation Committee was held in the Canteen on May 28 with a very good attendance. Congressman Wesley A. D'Ewart of Montana, Chairman, presided at the meeting. J. W. Penfold, Western Representative, Izaak Walton League of America, Denver, Colorado, represented that organization at the meeting.

The fishing season in the park officially opened on Memorial Day May 30. However, all of the streams were high and roily and fishing was poor. Yellowstone Lake, which is almost always free of ice by the opening of the fishing season, was still frozen over when the season opened this year.

Inspections. William Bartlett, Clerk, Glacier National Park, in May 4 to receive instructions on the operation of the new payrolling machine; out 4th.

William Dunn, in charge of Fish and Wildlife Service activities at Yellowstone Lake, moved in with his crew on May 5.

Albert R. Stocker, Architect, Region Two, in May 10 in connection with the letting of the contract for the new Custer Battlefield museum; out 11th.

Richard W. Ketcham and Ralph E. Martens, Engineers, Region Two, in May 20 for assignment to the Engineering Division during the summer.

C. Paul Marshall, Inspector, Food and Drug Administration, Butte, Montana, in May 24.

W. F. Carbine, Chief, Section Inland Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C., in office May 25 with William Dunn.

Weldon Robinson, Predatory Animal Officer, Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, in May 27 for Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting and to further studies on coyote control.

George Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Glacier National Park, with his family, in May 28 on vacation for several days.

Willard P. Lindauer, Highway Engineer, Region Two, and H. M. Bixby, Engineer, Bureau of Public Roads, Cheyenne, in east May 30. Bixby departed May 31.

In-Service Training. The training films "The Sawyer" and "The Axeman" were loaned to the park by Glacier Park for use at the fire school. These films were so well received by the ranger personnel that copies have now been purchased for Yellowstone for use in training seasonal personnel such as blister rust and road crews.

The Chief Park Naturalist and Park Naturalist Upton participated in the fire school activities for one day during that training period and Mr. Condon projected three training movies for the school trainees on May 10.

Two days were spent training all available permanent protection division personnel in the use and operation of the new cash registers which will be put into use this summer at all entrance stations. One half day was spent in instructions on safety pertaining to motor vehicle operation on all park roads with the idea of preventing accidents.

All available members of the protection division participated in a ranger fire school conducted at Mammoth from May 10 to 12.

The regular weekly newsletter was issued to all employees, keeping them current on park activities.

Publicity. The first supply of "A" and "B" Folders issued by the Yellowstone Park Company was received in the park on May 8 for general distribution. Their "Accommodations and Services" leaflet printed in their Mammoth print shop became available on May 25.

On May 18 a press release on the opening of roads and accommodations for the 1950 season was sent to the park's mailing list.

The May 20 issue of Collier's Magazine carried a two-page colored spread of Yellowstone in winter taken by Ross Madden, who spent about a month in the vicinity of West Yellowstone this winter.

Popular Mechanics Magazine for May carried an excellent article on Jack E. Haynes, authorized park photographer, and his father F. Jay Haynes. The article, entitled "Yellowstone's Other Old Faithful" is exceptionally well illustrated with a number of Haynes pictures and was written by Rafe Gibbs, Head of the Public Relations Department of the University of Idaho.

Notice was received on May 29 that 350,000 copies of the Yellowstone broadside for 1950 are being shipped to the park.

A total of 53,175 Yellowstone broadsides for 1949 remained on hand at the end of the month.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Plans for the Lake main sewer were submitted to the Regional Office for review; Fishing Bridge campground topography was completed and campground roads plotted; plans for the Old Faithful lodge cabin area water and sewer extension were completed.

Two Engineering Aides from the Regional Office, Messrs. Richard W. Ketcham and Ralph E. Martens, arrived in the park on May 21 to assist on physical improvement projects at Old Faithful, Lake and Fishing Bridge.

Because of the late spring and deep snow it has not been possible to start construction on the above projects but it is expected to get work under way in a few days.

Maintenance. Continued cold weather and snow made May a rather poor month for maintenance. As reported for April, the spring breakup of road surface has been severe and because of the wet snowy weather it has not been possible to keep up with the patching.

Snow plowing was the most difficult since the park started opening the roads with rotary snow plows. The snow is not only deeper than usual but in most places the snow is extremely hard, nearly ice. When it was evident the schedules were dropping behind, the plows started working twelve hours per day and seven days a week. Even with this extra time the work was considerably behind schedule. The extremely tough plowing is beginning to tell on the equipment and breakdowns are quite frequent.

The road to Lake and Canyon via Norris was opened to travel on May 18 and the Sunlight Basin Road from Cody to Cooke on May 22. The East Gate was opened to traffic on May 25 and the scheduled opening for

the South Gate is June 5, which is some ten days later than originally naticipated. The Old Faithful-West Thumb road is scheduled to be opened June 6 and the Canyon-Tower Falls road about June 10. Snow on the Red Lodge-Cooke Highway is deeper than normal and work is behind schedule on this section. By the end of the month it was expected that the highway might be opened to travel by June 15.

About 2½ miles of road was reprocessed during the month. The work on replacing the deck and rail on the Crazy Creek bridge is well underway. Some rotted guardrail between Mammoth and Norris was replaced with guide posts. The damage to the footpath in the Norris Geyser Basin was repaired and 2,400 feet of bituminous walk in the Mammoth area repaired and sealed.

Several large slides and washouts occurred during the month and severe damage was done to ditches and surface on the just completed Strong and Sons job at Canyon.

Sections of the Mammoth to Tower Falls, Madison Junction to West Yellowstone, Canyon to Norris and Canyon to Lake roads are in poor condition.

At the end of the month maintenance crews were stationed at Mammoth, Madison, Lake, Canyon, East Entrance, Gallatin and Northeast Entrance with special crews on guardrail, bridge repair and paths, totaling 76 men.

New Construction. Bids are to be opened in Denver by the Bureau of Public Roads at 10:00 a.m. June 14 for constructing project Moran-Yellowstone Approach Road Section D, Unit 2, Grading and Base Surfacing 8.38 miles.

Due to adverse weather and snow conditions work could not be started on Section 1-D and portion of C, Grading South Approach Road, but it is expected that work will get underway shortly after the South Entrance Road is opened on June 5.

Work was completed on the Additional Bedrooms on Four Residences at Mammoth, Account 430, except for a small amount of roof staining.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company started tearing down on May 2 one of its old landmarks, the Mammoth swimming pool constructed many years ago in connection with the Mammoth Lodge. Work will be continued during the summer and it is expected by fall the building will be entirely razed and the site restored to its natural condition.

It is not expected that the Old Faithful swimming pool will be reopened for use this summer and the concessioner, C. A. Hamilton, has been requested to demolish the building. With the Mammoth swimming pool torn down and the Old Faithful swimming pool closed there will be no swimming pools opened in the park for visitors and employees.

The Old Faithful cafeteria, tourist cabins and repair shop were opened for the 1950 season on May 10. There was still considerable snow around the cafeteria and tourist cabins at the time and it was possible to enter only a very few cabins. The Canyon store was opened for business on May 20, the Fishing Bridge tourist cabins, cafeteria and repair garage on May 22, the Mammoth Coffee Shop on May 25, and the Canyon cafeteria, tourist cabins and repair garage on May 27. Boats were available at Lake and Thumb beginning May 30 when the fishing season opened but the lake was still frozen over and boats could not be placed in the water.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, paid a visit to the park on May 8 and moved to Mammoth on the 24th. Huntley Child, Manager of Lodges and Camps for the Company, moved his offices from Gardiner to Mammoth on the 13th, and John Q. Nichols, Assistant to the President of the Company, arrived in the park on May 15.

A nurse was assigned to Old Faithful on May 16 and to Fishing Bridge on the 22nd.

The Washington Office approved the 1950 rates for Hamilton Stores, Inc. on May 22.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hamilton arrived in the park via the West Gate on May 26.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The Sunday School activities for the winter season terminated with Sunday School on May 14 when a special Mother's Day service was held. Reverend S. A. Syms of Livingston, Montana conducted non-denominational Protestant services on the evenings of May 14 and May 28.

During the month the padded kneeling prayer benches were completed by Mr. Al Bowman who was given the contract for their construction and installation by the Yellowstone Park Church Committee. These were placed in the chapel but have not yet been installed in their permanent position due to the difficulty of obtaining a special bolt with which to fasten them to the pews. The Church Committee paid Mr. Bowman $500 of the sum due on the installation and will pay the balance when the installation is completed.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented a 16mm colored motion picture to the Absaroka Conservation Committee on the evening of May 27. The picture and talk dealt with the 1949-50 elk

management program. In addition to this picture the Yellowstone Park sound motion picture by the Ford Motor Company and two other silent motion pictures were presented to this group.

The new Yellowstone sound motion picture prepared by the Ford Motor Company was presented by the Chief Park Naturalist to four audiences during the month; on the 5th to National Park Service personnel; on the 10th to the fire training school, on the 19th to National Federation of Federal Employees state convention in Glacier Park and on the 27th to the Absaroka Conservation Committee group and visitors. At these four showings it was seen by a total of 312 people.

The motion picture on Yellowstone which was loaned to the Oakland High School and shown by them to an adult group of 20 teachers who were taking a technical course on travel in the national parks. This picture was returned to Yellowstone in mid-May. The motion picture of Yellowstone Park which was on loan to Superintendent Al Elliott of Mt. Rushmore was used by him the fore part of the month and was returned to Yellowstone.

Chief Park Naturalist Condon talked on May 1 to the Yellowstone Club of Livingston, Montana. The subject was Yellowstone Park and it was attended by 48 people. On the evening of May 2 he presented a talk to the Gardiner Lions Club on their ladies night and there were 30 people in attendance. On May 17 he presented a talk on Yellowstone Park to the Lincoln School in Livingston, Montana, with a total of 430 students and teachers in attendance.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. The Mammoth museum was opened to the public on May 15 and the Old Faithful museum on May 22. The shutters were removed from the wayside exhibits during the month. The attendance at the Mammoth museum was 500 and at the Old Faithful museum it was 600.

The park headquarters museum's cut flower exhibit rack and the water storage tray were repainted and placed in fine condition for summer use.

A set of representative igneous rock specimens were sent to Ruth Howard, Curator of Education at the Kalamazoo Museum, Kalamazoo, Michigan. These rocks were to be used for educational purposes and placed out on loan to the schools of the Kalamazoo vicinity.

Research and Observation. Of unusual interest was the finding of an American bittern on the Gibbon River just below the Norris Ranger Station on May 25. This bird is not carried on the regular check list of birds of the park and was the first occasion it had been observed here by either Naturalists Condon or Upton.

Throughout the month there have been large numbers of Canadian geese, ducks and other water fowl along the streams and shores of the lakes as they opened up. Elk calves were observed toward the end of May in the area around the Mammoth C.C.C. Camp, on Swan Lake Flat and one was seen on the Madison River. On May 31 five black bear were seen along the road between Mammoth and Old Faithful. The bison are scattered extensively over a good portion of the park and were commonly seen along the Gibbon, Madison, Forehole, Yellowstone and Lamar River drainages and large numbers of them were seen in Hayden Valley and along the eastern shore of Yellowstone Lake. Seven young bison calves were seen with the herd in the Lower Geyser Basin on May 7. The trumpeter swan have been establishing themselves on many of the small lakes and were nesting on most of them by mid-May. There is a pair nesting on Swan Lake again this year, a pair nesting near the junction of the Lamar River and Slough Creek, a pair on Geode Lake and apparently non-nesting birds have established themselves on Nymph and Beaver Lakes where on three occasions swan were seen on the same day. On May 2 a mature bull elk, still carrying his antlers, was observed and photographed in the Upper Geyser Basin near Calthos Spring.

The snow across the Norris-cutoff on May 2 measured 62 inches and in the Canyon area it was possible to walk anywhere on the hard packed snow without snowshoes or skis and a hike was made down the Canyon rim to the present Grand View observation platform, to the proposed new Grand View Lookout and to Look Out Point. In several places tracks of moose, elk, coyote and even buffalo were seen where the animals were walking across the top of the snow without breaking through.

Sandhill cranes were observed apparently establishing themselves in Elk Park, in the meadow below Nymph Lake, on the Fountain Flats, in the Gibbon Meadows and near the Mud Volcano in Hayden Valley.

Physical evidence in the Lower Geyser Basin indicates that the Morning Geyser, the Fountain Geyser and Clepsydra Geyser which were erupting with an appreciable degree of regularity during the 1949 summer season and fall have not erupted for several months and at the close of May these geysers have not yet played. It is thought that probably with the change in weather conditions and a warming of the atmosphere it may be a change will develop in this group.

The walk in the Norris Geyser Basin near Colloidal Pool was destroyed by the development of intensive thermal activity and extensive repairs were necessary. The Engineering Division placed vitreous tile and concrete in this section and repaired the path only to have it burst out again later in the month and additional repairs had to be made.

Extensive information was supplied to Mr. Leslie Pengelly of the Idaho State Game and Fish Department on elk shipments made to the state of Idaho from Yellowstone Park during past years and the tagging records of these animals. This information was supplied him for his use in extensive studies which he is making on elk in Idaho.

Collecting permits were issued during the month to Dr. Alan A. Beetle of the University of Wyoming to collect plant specimens and to Mr. Chester Stojanovich of the U. S. Public Health Service to collect larvae of the Aedes mosquito.

Natural History Association. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association received back from the Dieter Book Bindery books which were sent to them for binding and these have been placed in the stacks and those which were not accessioned and classified will be attended to by the librarian during June. The Association continued to sell publications by mail and some work was accomplished toward preparing book stocks for distribution to field stations as soon as museums open.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. A total of 24,051 people entered the park in 8,396 vehicles this month as compared to 34,607 persons in 10,929 vehicles during May of 1949. The decrease in travel over May 1949 was 30.5%. A severe spring season with snow or rain occurring almost daily throughout May undoubtedly accounted for the decrease in travel. Park highways were cleared of snow and opened for public travel as follows: Norris to Canyon, May 18; Canyon to Lake, May 18 and Lake to East Entrance, May 25. The highway from Lake to the South Entrance is scheduled to open on June 5, the highway from West Thumb to Old Faithful on June 6, and the highway from Canyon to Tower Falls on June 10. The Northeast Entrance approach road from Cooke to Red Lodge, Montana, is expected to be open by June 15. Road openings averaged from a week to ten days later than last season.

Visitors. J. W. Penfold, Western Representative, Izaak Walton League of America, Denver, in May 27 to attend Absaroka Conservation Committee meeting; out 28th.

Honorable Wesley A. D'Ewart, Congressman from Montana and Chairman of the Absaroka Conservation Committee, in May 27 to preside at Committee meeting May 28; out 28th.

Ranger Service. The majority of permanent ranger moves had been made by the latter part of the month to the field stations and activities started in preparation for the coming summer season. Trail maintenance was started in the Mammoth District the first part of the month and progressed steadily during the entire month. Due to the late season and remaining snow throughout the park, field work was limited during the month. Considerable time was spent by the office personnel in preparing a new manual of instructions for cash register operations which will be put in use at all entrance stations on June 5 when the collection of entrance fees will start. Other Protection Division activities included rebuilding the large pasture fence at Lamar to hold the mares and colts, highway and fish patrols, fish planting, preparing reports and correspondence.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. FISH. Anglers encountered unfavorable water conditions in the park on May 30 when the general fishing season opened. Streams were high and roily and Yellowstone Lake was still covered with ice. A strong cold north wind also interfered with fishermen so that most were unsuccessful or reported only fair luck. Good advance publicity apparently was responsible for satisfactory compliance with the new regulation which permits taking fish in the Madison and Firehole Rivers only with artificial flies or single baited hooks. Nearly all anglers contacted expressed approval of this new restriction for the two streams affected.

Fish and Wildlife Service personnel occupied the Yellowstone Lake hatchery about May 5 but were limited to making preparations for the season work as ice remained on the Lake through the end of the month. Very few fish moved up the streams so that spawn taking operations will be started later than usual. The stream research station on Arnica Creek was placed in operation and will be handled by the Fish and Wildlife Service through the summer as a part of the investigation of the Yellowstone Lake fish resources. One man from the Ennis fish cultural station moved to Trout Lake on May 26 to prepare for spawn taking operations.

Planting of rainbow trout fingerlings from the Ennis hatchery, in the Madison River was delayed by late delivery of necessary equipment to the Ennis hatchery. This work will be done during early June. The Montana Fish and Game Department hatchery at Emigrant, Montana, furnished the following fish for the Madison River:

Species	Size	Stream	Date Planted
Loch Leven	$1\frac{1}{2}$	Madison River	May 18, 1950
Rainbow	2	Madison River	May 19, 1950

BEARS. Bears made their appearance along the roads very soon after public travel was permitted and were seen in considerable numbers by the end of the month. One case of property damage, involving the Yellowstone Park Company mess hall at Lake, was caused by a black bear which was trapped and transported to a more remote area. A dead black bear was found in the West Thumb area but the cause of death was not determined.

BISON. Visitors have been able to see numerous bison in Hayden Valley and the Lower Firehole River area. These animals are a very important attraction as is evident from the great interest shown by visitors in observing and photographing them. It has been possible for visitors to see more than an occasional bison for only ten to twelve years or since they became abundant in two or three interior areas.

ELK. Elk remained on the winter range through May. Migration to the summer range apparently was delayed by the late melting of the snow cover. Precipitation at the Mammoth station for May was 1.32 inches as compared with 1.26 inches for the previous year. However, growth of

grasses and other vegetation was much greater in 1949 than in 1950 when temperatures were considerably higher and soil moisture considerably less. This improved growth is most pronounced on the lowest parts of the winter range which suffered severely from drouth last year. Late spring use by large numbers of elk is having some adverse effect on forage growth.

RODENT CONTROL. Control of ground squirrels was continued in the developed areas to keep the numbers of these rodents in check around areas of human habitation as recommended by the Public Health Service. Three marmots, which were found around buildings at Old Faithful, were disposed of during May. Ground squirrels were taken as follows: Canyon, 58; Tower Falls, 98; Lamar, 15; Mammoth, 112; Old Faithful, 80; Total, 363.

Forest Fire Protection. The first week of May was mainly devoted to the preparation of lesson plans, training charts, laying out problems, and making preparations for the fire school. The fire school was held May 10, 11 and 12 at Mammoth. Smokechasing problems included compass work and considerable practical instructions such as fire camp layouts and foremanship were taken up. Two days of this school were spent in the field.

With one or two exceptions men for all the fire control aid positions have been selected.

Blister Rust Control. Preparations were carried on for beginning blister rust control work. Sheets, mattress covers, etc. were laundered. Valves from the hi-fog sprays were returned from the factory and insofar as possible plans were completed to begin the work as soon as the men report on June 12. The two cargo trucks have been stored at Norris during the winter; therefore, no work has been accomplished on them.

Building Fire Protection. During the ranger fire training school May 10-12 one hour of instruction on building fire protection plans for the summer was given.

The Annual Building Fire Equipment Report was completed May 16.

On May 29 and 31 the Protextite, foam, and soda acid fire extinguishers in use in Mammoth were discharged and refilled. Also, during the month all fire hose in hose houses in Mammoth were tested and recoiled. All connections were cleaned and lubricated with graphite flakes. No defective hose was found.

Plans were completed for two half days of training for the Mammoth fire engine crew but due to weather conditions and conflict with special work these training schedules have been postponed until June 6 and 7.

Trails. Three men were employed as trail laborers on May 1 and one on May 11. These men worked throughout the month on the Yellowstone River and Lava Creek trails.

Weather conditions and the late spring delayed trail work during the month. A number of items of supplies and equipment were purchased during the month for use on the trails.

Accidents and Public Safety. Seven motor vehicle accidents were reported during the month, six of which were Class "B" and one Class "A". Slight personal injuries occurred in three of the accidents. Two of the accidents involved Government vehicles.

Two personal injury reports were submitted, one on Donald E. Greer who received minor injuries when a ladder fell with him and the other on a very serious injury which was sustained when Lawrence Murray, Electrician Foreman, jerked himself free from a live electric line and fell on hard packed snow. Mr. Murray suffered severe shock and fractured bones in both ankles and feet.

Births. A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William G. Armstrong at the Park Hospital in Livingston on May 11. Mr. Armstrong is employed as a Fireman (Shovel, Crane, Stationary).

Personnel. George Q. Wheeler entered on duty as seasonal Storekeeper, GS-3 on May 1.

Edwin J. Quinn entered on duty as permanent Property Clerk, GS-4 on May 1 vice Robert J. Carr who was promoted to the position of Fiscal Accounting Clerk vice Catharine L. Gillum. Mrs. Gillum departed for Stockton, California, on May 1 to take over her duties with the Reclamation Service at that location.

Betty Jane Lauer entered on duty as seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3 May 2.

Homer I. Brent's services as Park Ranger terminated at the close of business May 8 due to his failure to pass the park ranger examination held last August. He entered on duty as a seasonal Park Ranger, GS-4 May 9.

Lawrence Murray, Foreman Electrician, was severely injured by falling from a power line pole at the rear of the Old Faithful Upper Store on May 9 and the accident is expected to incapacitate him from work for several months.

Genevieve E. McCabe and Mary Jo McCarthy entered on duty as seasonal Clerk Stenographers, GS-3 May 15. Elizabeth McGinnis entered on duty as seasonal Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3 and Wilbur Thomas as seasonal Storekeeper, GS-3 on May 22.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union, No. 465 was held in the Canteen on May 1.

Fred T. Johnston
Acting Superintendent

cc: Region Two, in quintuple
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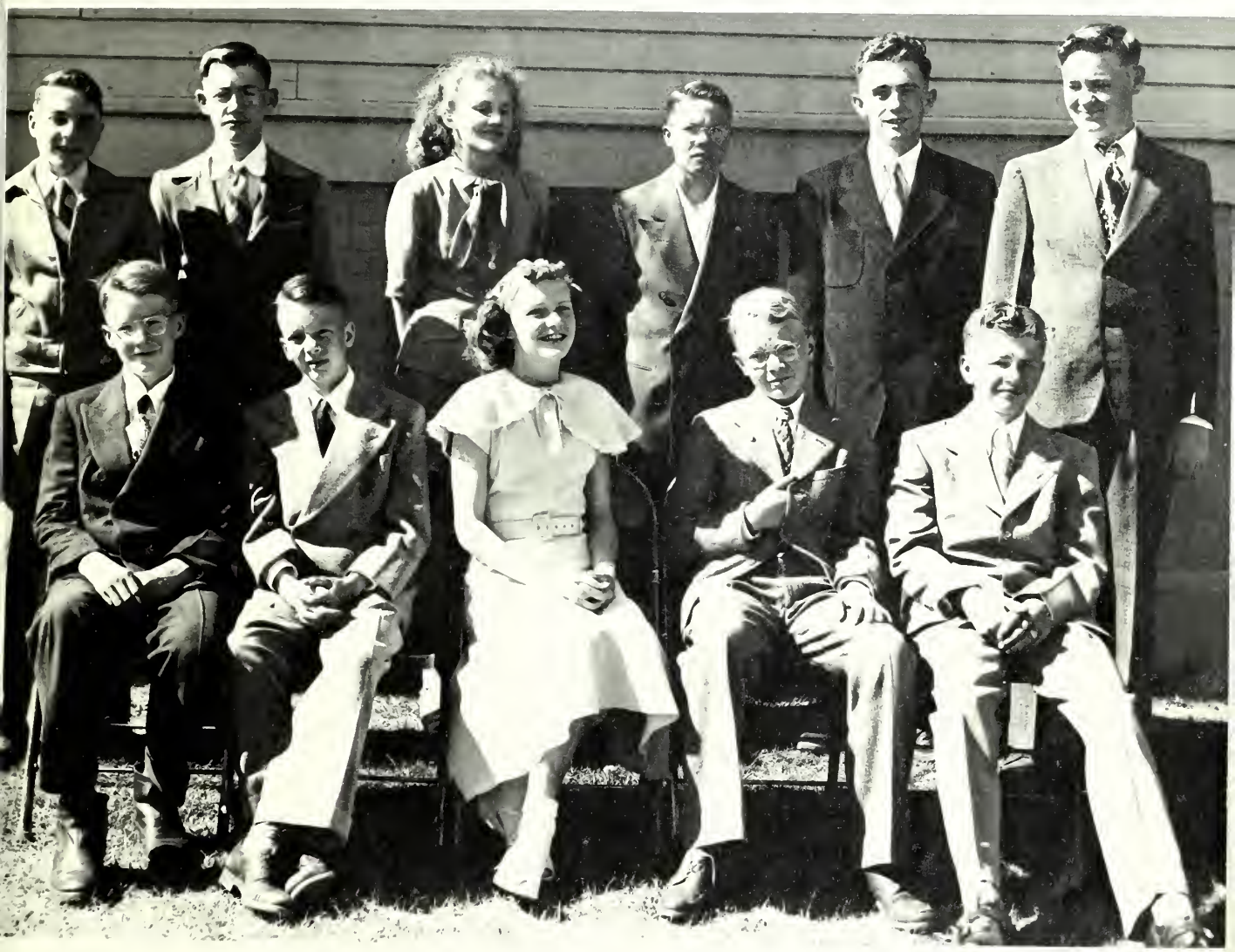

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION CLASS, MAMMOTH SCHOOL, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
MAY 26, 1950

Reading left to right, back row: James Armstrong, Bruce McMullin, Dorothy Legg (Teacher), Ronald Way, Richard Fillmore, Orvil Stewart
First row: David Stevens, Jerome Johnston, Rosemary Proper, George Mattson, Jerry Abbie.

Photo by Watson